

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8253
INFMIRUSBQD/AMEMBASSUISLAMABAD 7220
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4337

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AF, CH, PEPR, UR
SUBJECT: CHINESE AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON AFGHANISTAN

1. FOLLOWING ARE SOME COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS MADE
BY CHINESE AMBASSADOR HUANG MING-TA IN A FAREWELL CONVERSATION
WITH ME ON MAY 27 AT THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA.

2. HUANG CHARACTERIZED THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME AS BEING
UNDENIABLY CONTROLLED BY PRO-SOVIET COMMUNISTS. HE
NOTED THAT HE HAD PAID COURTESY CALLS ON CHAIRMAN
TARAKI AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN. HE
WONDERED OUT LOUD IF THE OTHER AFGHAN MINISTERS WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH HIM. HUANG SAID THAT
THE NEW REGIME HAD EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO BE NON-
ALIGNED, BUT HE ASKED WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE OF THIS
POLICY. HUANG DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE NEW REGIME
HAD NOT YET AGREED TO HONOR ITS PAST TREATIES AND
INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

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3. HUANG COMMENTED THAT THE EXISTING CHINESE AID
PROJECTS WERE BEING CONTINUED, BUT THE AFGHAN GOVERN-
MENT HAD NOT REQUESTED ANY NEW PROJECTS FROM THE
CHINESE SO FAR. HUANG MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD
FROM CHINESE TECHNICIANS THAT THERE WAS CONTINUING
UNREST IN THE PANJSHIR VALLEY. HUANG OBSERVED THAT

THE SOVIET UNION HAD GREAT INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND WOULD PROVIDE AFGHANISTAN WITH ANY ASSISTANCE IT MIGHT NEED. HE SPECULATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT FIND THIS TO BE AN EXPENSIVE VENTURE.

4. HUANG SAID THAT A FELLOW DIPLOMAT HAD TOLD HIM THAT CHAIRMAN TARAKI HAD MADE SOME UPSETTING OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE PAKISTAN/ AFGHANISTAN BORDER IN A RECENT COURTESY CALL. TARAKI NOTED THAT BALUCHISTAN AND THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE HAD BEEN A PART OF AFGHANISTAN UNTIL 80 YEARS AGO, AND IT WAS ONLY DURING THE BRITISH COLONIAL PERIOD THAT THESE REGIONS HAD BECOME A PART OF INDIA. AMBASSADOR HUANG THOUGHT THESE REMARKS TO BE A BAD SIGN. HE ADDED THAT THE USA AND COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN, TURKEY, AND IRAN AND TO BLOC SOVIET DESIGNS TO REACH THE PERSIAN GULF. HUANG SAID THAT, OF COURSE, CHINA WOULD ASSIST PAKISTAN, BUT CHINESE RESOURCES WERE LIMITED.

5. TOWARD THE END OF THE CONVERSATION HUANG MADE THE PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT AFGHANISTAN IS A HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC COUNTRY AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CHANGES (READ COUNTER-COUPS) IN AFGHANISTAN WITHIN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. HE ALSO URGED THAT AMERICAN PROGRAMS SHOULD CONTINUE IN AFGHANISTAN.

6. AMBASSADOR HUANG RECEIVED ME GRACIOUSLY AND ASKED TO COME TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BEFORE MY DEPARTURE TO PAY A RETURN CALL. HUANG WAS CANDID AND FORTHCOMING; OUR VIEWS ON ISSUES CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN WERE NEARLY IDENTICAL.
ELIOT

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